(NCDC) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) have taken several measures as follows in order to reduce post harvest losses:—

(1) NHB has started implementation of programmes for strengthening the basic post harvest infrastructure which include setting up pre-cooling units to increase shelf life, improvement in packaging, small cold storages in producing areas and supply of maturity kits for judging right stage of harvesting.

(2) NCDC is providing financial assistance to producers and marketing cooperatives for purchase of transport vehicles, construction of large integrated godowns, grading and packing sheds, establishment of processing units and large cold storages. The Cooperatives are also being assisted with loans/equity and margin money in order to increase their marketing operations.

(3) MFPI have various Plan schemes for setting up fruit and vegetable processing industries. These include infrastructural and common facilities for food processing industries in rural areas and development of cold storage facilities at major airports, railway stations and production centres.

Agricultural food, commercial and winter crops

195. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of major agricultural food crops, commercial crops and projected winter crop;

(b) whether the country is facting shortage of any crop; if so, what are the details thereof; and the measures proposed to be taken to meet the deficit; and

(c) what are the details of surplus crops and what is the targetted export of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The major agricultural food and commercial crops of the kharif season are rice, jowar, bajra, maize, tur, groundnut, soyabean, cotton, jute and Mesta, sugarcane etc. Similarly, the important rabi/summer crops are rice, wheat, gram, rapeseed and mustard, etc. It is too early to indicate the size of the Kharif crops at this stage as final estimates have not yet become due from the states. However as tre rainfall and weather conditions in north-west India have not been very favourable due to long dry spells, production of foodgrains is likely to be short of the targetted level of 103 million tonnes fixed for the kharif 1991 season. The condition of commercial crops of the kharif season is generally reported to be good except for groundnut. The target fixed for rabi foodgrains is 79.35 million tonnes. If the rainfall and weather conditions remain favourable, targets fixed for the rabi crops including foodgrains and oilseeds are likely to be achieved.

To make up the shortfall in production of kharif crops, the rabi crop production strategy was formulated and finalised in consultation with the State Governments which included contingency cropping; larger area coverage under rabi/summer rice; wheat, rabi/summer maize, pulses and oilseeds; bringing additional area being made available by the States through ongoing production programmes such as Special Foodgrains Production Programme of Wheat, maize and millets (SFPP), National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP)

National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP), etc.

(c) No targets for exports of agricultural crops have been fixed as such. However, Government of India intends to export 7 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice, about 3 lakh tonnes of basmati rice and 8 lakh tonnes of wheat during this year. In case of cotton, the Government has so far released 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton for export during 1991-92 cotton season. The release of further quota would depend upon the actual crop size and the requirement for the domestic consumption by the Textile Industry.

Financial assistance to Khambhat project

196. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have approached Central Government for seeking financial assistance from World Bank for the feasibility studies of multi purpose Khambhat project and its studies for irrigation, tidal power and Road-bridge link of Saurashtra with south recently;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government and what is the response of World Bank; and

(c) what are the findings of Government about Rs. 6000 crores Khambhat project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat has come up with a proposal for Multipurpose Khambat Project with a view to secure external financial assistance for pre-feasibility studies. The World Bank has opined that certain additional studies are necessary prior to pre-feasibility stage. The proposal is at a conceptual stage.

Water supply to Saurashtra and Kutch

197. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the project for water supply to Saurashtra and Kutch finalised by Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) limited in 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details of this bridge-road-cum-pipeline project; and

(c) whether Central Government would assist Gujarat Government in view of majority of districts being drought prone and deficient in resources?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) On the basis of a pre-feasibility report submitted by Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited on Water Supply to Saurashtra and Kutch Region in June, 1989, a project report was prepared by the Government of Gujarat and submitted to the Planning Commission. The project envisages construction of a lane bridge through the Gulf of Cambay and supply of water through a pipeline to be laid on the ground through the box girders of the bridge for crossing the Gulf of Cambay. The project proposal is under examination in the Planning Commission.